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Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

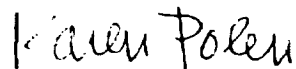
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my support and encouragement for the recent settlement agreement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. This was a settlement that was reached after three months of intense negotiation, following three years of what I viewed as an unnecessary lawsuit. These negotiations were mediated by court appointed individual who allowed both sides to come to a reasonable conclusion. This settlement should stand on its own merits and I believe has the public interest in mind.

The settlement contains several provisions designed to increase competition in the marketplace as well as to keep Microsoft accountable to the federal government. This agreement contains a provision that requires Microsoft to not retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in its Windows operating system. There is a similar provision relating to software developers, where Microsoft may not retaliate against developers who develop or promote software that competes with Windows or that runs on software that competes with Windows. Perhaps most importantly, however, is that Microsoft has agreed that if a third party's exercise of any options provided for by the settlement, would infringe on any Microsoft intellectual property right, Microsoft will provide the third party with a license to the necessary intellectual property on reasonable, and non-discriminatory terms. This is important because it shows that Microsoft is completely willing to increase competition.

This is a settlement that goes beyond the original government interests, and shows Microsoft's commitment to diversity in the industry. I strongly urge your office to move on this settlement and to take no further federal action.

Sincerely,



Karen Polen